

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated June 27, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment and Response, claims 11, 17 and 20 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claim 11 may be found at least at Applicant's Figures 7E and 8 and Specification at pages 15-16. Support for the amendments to claims 17 and 20 can be found throughout the Specification. Claims 32 and 33 are newly added. Support for new claims 32 and 33 can be found at Applicant's Figure 10 and Specification pages 16-17. No new matter is believed to be added. Claims 1-10 and 22-31 have previously been canceled per Applicant's Response of September 13, 2004. Claim 15 has been canceled per Applicant's Response of February 23, 2006. Accordingly, claims 11-14, 16-21 and 32-33 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has Objected to the Drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner has stated that "the pixel electrode having a first region directly on the protection layer and juxtaposed a data line must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s)." (Office Action at page 2). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. However, Applicant has amended claim 11 to clarify claimed features and has canceled the limitation of the 'pixel electrode having a first region directly on the protection layer and juxtaposed a data line.' Thus, the Examiner's Objection to the Drawings is believed to be moot.

In the Office Action, claims 11-14 and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112(1)(first paragraph) as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner has stated that "the limitation of 'pixel electrode having a first region directly on the protection layer and juxtaposed a data line' has not disclosed in the original in such a way as to raise a new subject matter." (Office Action at page 3). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. However, Applicant has amended claim 11 to clarify claimed features and has canceled the limitation of the "pixel electrode having a first region directly on the protection layer and juxtaposed a data line." Thus, the Examiner's Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112(1)(first paragraph) is believed to be moot.

In the Office Action, claims 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,104,042 (to Sah)(hereinafter “Sah”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,920,082 (to Kitazawa et al.)(hereinafter “Kitazawa”). Claims 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sah in view of Kitazawa and further in view of Applicant’s Related Art (Figures 2 and 4).

The rejection of claims 11-14 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 11-14 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “forming a protection layer on the thin film transistor and on the gate insulation layer, wherein forming the protection layer includes etching the protection layer to cover the first side but not the second side of the drain electrode; and forming a pixel electrode having a plurality of regions wherein a first region is separated from the protection layer at an interval and a second region directly on the gate insulation layer, wherein the second region electrically contacts the second side of the drain electrode, wherein the pixel electrode is formed using a back exposure.” None of the cited references, including Sah and Kitazawa, singly or in any combination, teaches at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claim 11 and claims 12-14 and 16-21, which depend either directly or indirectly upon claim 11, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 16-21 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. With respect to the rejection of claims 16-21, Applicant furthermore seasonably traverses said rejection at least for the reasons that follow. The Examiner has used Applicant’s Related Art Figures 2 and 4 against the rejection of said claims. Figures 2 and 4 are merely art that may or may not be related to Applicant’s claimed invention and is not an admission that may be used against Applicant. Furthermore, it is respectfully noted that Applicant’s Related Art does not cure the deficiencies of Sah and Kitazawa. It is also furthermore noted that Applicant seasonably traverses the Examiner’s statement that “it is a common practice in the LCD art in order to connect an LCD device to external circuit through gate/data pad electrode.” (Office Action at page 5). Accordingly, claim 16 and claims 17-21, which depend either directly or indirectly upon claim 16, are allowable over the cited references.

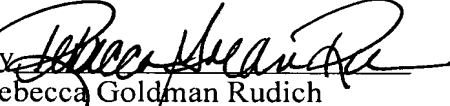
Applicant believes the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: December 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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